

www.mounttam.org

November 2011– January 2012

415/381-3119

## **Throckmorton Ridge Fire Station News**

Has anyone been wondering what all the chainsaw noise has been all along Panoramic? Fire Safe Marin has been awarded a grant from the USFS for \$282,000 to create a fuel break along Panoramic Highway.



The project starts at Four Corners and continues past the fire station. It is approximately 2 miles of fuel break. The Marin County Fire Department's Tamalpais Fire Crew and a private contractor have been working long hours to accomplish this task. The project is overseen by Marin County Fire Forester, Kent Julin, who was able to coordinate efforts from private citizens and the State Parks to allow crews to clear vegetation from these areas. Now that winter is here what should you do to prepare for the onslaught of winter storms soon to arrive?

- 1. Prepare your family. Make sure you have enough food, water and medicine for 5-7 days.
- 2. Have your address clearly marked on your residence with 4-inch reflective contrasting lettering.
- 3. Clean your chimney before using.
- Do not block the roadways. 12 feet of clearance is required on all roadways. Please do not block the access of emergency vehicles to your residence or to your neighbors'.
- 5. Contact PG&E regarding tree limbs that may come in contact with power lines.
- Assume that all power lines are energized and can kill you.

On October 22nd the Marin County Fire Department and the Marin County Sheriff's office conducted an evacuation drill of the Throckmorton Ridge area. At 9AM approximately 100 residences were contacted through the Office of Emergency Services TENS phone system asking the citizens to participate in a live evacuation drill. The emergency siren

was activated and emergency workers began to go door to door evacuating citizens. The MMWD began the evacuation of the watershed and the CHP simulated road closures and helped to ensure the safety of pedestrians on the roadway.

The disaster council in coordination with CERT volunteers, the Red Cross and the Human Society set up an evacuation shelter at the Muir Woods Park Community Center. At the community center 58 residents were checked in as well as numerous animals. The purpose of the drill was to bring awareness of the wild land interface hazards that exists in our community and to test the multi-agency coordination which will be required of an incident of this magnitude. Drills like this in conjunction with homeowners' vegetation clearance, manmade fuel breaks and community awareness will be necessary to limit the loss of life and property in the event of a major wild land fire.

We would like to thank all of the residents and volunteers who participated in the evacuation drill. It was a huge success and we look forward to more in the future. If anyone is interested in becoming a member of the Disaster Council or CERT please contact the Throckmorton Ridge Fire Station.

- Jeremey Pierce

Senior Captain Throckmorton Fire Station Marin County Fire Department 415/388-5414

## MWPCA President's Report

The recent election generated the most interest and enthusiasm in memory, and we thank all those who helped make it so. The number of ballots (130) is by far the most in memory and likely the most ever. We encourage all candidates and other interested folks to continue their active participation. There's always plenty to do to care for our community and we welcome your participation.

Election results are as follows: (Inc = Incumbent, E = Elected)

Officers: Number of Votes

Peter Hindley, President, Inc 112 E
Keith Papulias, Vice-President, Inc 113 E
Carol Stern, Treasurer, Inc 116 E
Nancy Gribler, Recording Secretary, Inc 113 E
Lynn Hindley, Corresponding Secretary, Inc 112 E

#### **Directors: Number of Votes**

Lila Daniels, Inc 103 E
Faybeth Diamond, Inc 91 E
Harold Dittmer, Inc 97 E
Susan Johnson, Inc 100 E
John Lovell, Inc 103 E
Judy Sparks, Inc 88 E
Dan Brutlag 33
Laura Chariton 39
Sherry Fraser 33

#### Write-in Candidates

Carlos Nogueiro, President 2

#### **Sewer Update**

At the September sewer meeting Steve Kinsey said that the neighborhood had to come to consensus on how to proceed, whether sewer or some other approach. In other words, those who favor the sewer would have to demonstrate to him that a solid majority – perhaps 2/3 – do want to proceed with a sewer. See Bill Daniels' article on page 5 for more details.

#### Holiday Parties in December

The next events are the annual holiday parties, one for children and one for adults. See the attached details on page 3. An announcement with details will be circulated closer to the dates.

- Peter Hindley

#### **Disaster Council Report**

The MWPCA Clubhouse was the hub of activity during the October 22<sup>nd</sup> Disaster drill. Fire Engines, fire trucks, ambulances, highway patrol cars, sheriffs cars, Red Cross vehicles and a Humane Society van filled the upper and lower parking lots. Tents and tables for responders lined the path to the clubhouse door. Inside, stretchers and cots were set up to receive 'injured' evacuees.

Signs posted along Panoramic directed evacuees to the MWPCA Red Cross Evacuation center. After receiving the TENS phone call to evacuate and hearing the siren, residents of Upper Edgewood, Marin View, Annie Lane, Mountain View, Hamilton, Washington Park, Mountain Lane Trail, and the upper end of Panoramic, made their way on foot (some on bicycles) to the center. CERT trained volunteers helped to monitor the movement of evacuees and assisted the emergency responder professionals. Once evacuees reached the clubhouse, they checked in. They were then allowed to leave. In a real emergency they would have received further instructions as to what to do next.

The drill ended with a review / critique by all the personnel of the participating agencies. The opinion voiced by all was that it was one of the most successful drills that has been conducted by the Southern Marin emergency response agencies.

One of the tasks of the Disaster Council is to assess and evaluate its effectiveness; then use the data to adjust the Throckmorton Ridge Emergency Response plan to fit our particular needs. At the last meeting of the Disaster Council, Fire Captain Jeremey Pierce was pleased to report the high level of participation by residents. Fifty-eight evacuees came to the center. The Neighborhood Liaisons reported in with their damage control reports. The Humane Society reported that two dogs self-checked themselves in. Later their owners were found and the dogs were returned to their homes.

The success of the day does not mark the end of the preparation plans that are so important to the safety of our mountain community. During this past month, neighborhood liaisons have been contacting neighbors and gathering information. To be prepared it is necessary to know the names, addresses, contact information, and special needs of all who live on the mountain. It is especially important for neighbors to help each other. Residents who cannot easily evacuate on their own need to be identified and plans made to assist them. If you have received your 'green' form please fill it out and return it to your street liaison.

The Disaster Council is still seeking volunteer liaisons for some of the streets. Please contact Susan Johnson, 388-7267 or susancaj@comcast.net, and volunteer to be a liaison for one of these areas:

Brighton, Fern, Ashbury & King's Way Edgewood – address #s 438 to 800

Madera Way

Mono Way

Panoramic Hwy – 384 to 390, 420 to 430, 455 to 479, 474 to 496, 560 to 566.

Sunrise / Chanticleer / Sunnycrest, King's Way, Lone Tree
Walsh Drive - Susan Johnson
Safety Committee

#### Progress in the Park

Winter is OUR time, the time for locals to enjoy parklands and have them nearly to ourselves...so come down into the Redwood Creek Watershed this year to explore amazing improvements and changes!

At the foot of the Ocean View Trail you can walk among the giant redwoods on our new boardwalk. Bootjack Trail, now under complete renovation thanks to youth-power!, will be done at the end of January. And, a totally new landscape awaits you (and salmon!) at Muir Beach with the complete recontouring of the floodplain to allow the historic channel to once again flow. Backwater channels offer refugia to fish, wetlands will again welcome waterfowl and the new pedestrian bridge allows the creek to flood more naturally (and places of little impact to the community!).

Visitors observe more and more wildlife. Coyotes prowl and hunt. Foxes are once again a common sighting. The otter family makes regular appearances throughout Redwood Creek. We await the arrival of such wintertime critters as the varied thrush, the silver salmon and the banana slug! Take a winter walk and warm up with a tasty treat at the Muir Woods Trading Company.

A very special time to visit is Winter Solstice on December 22nd...celebrate the longest night and the shortest day among the tall trees... with singing, stories, and a quiet walk through the luminary-lit woods. Check the website for specific program information: www.nps.gov/muwo.

#### Help shape your national park...good news:

Public Comment Period Extended through December 9th for the Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Muir Woods National Monument.

Comments may be submitted online at:

http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ggnra\_gmp or be mailed to:

General Superintendent, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, ATTN: Draft GMP/EIS, Building 201, Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA 94123-0022. All comments must be postmarked or transmitted no later than December 9, 2011. It will not be necessary for individuals, organizations, and agencies that have already commented to do so again.

#### Good information about important topics:

Fire and Fuels News—a monthly newsletter of fire-related activities in-and-around S.F. Bay Area National Parks

#### Highlights this month:

- Homestead Valley's fire safe grant
- McCurdy Prescribed Fire in Highway One Fuel Break
- New research in fire ecology and forest health
- Post-fire native plant revegetation begins in the Marin Headlands this Sunday

See link for November edition: http://archive.constantcontact.com/ fs068/1106683795676/archive/1108317685516.html Note: Muir Woods entrance fees increase to \$7 on January 1. The additional \$2 is the state fee that will go towards keeping Mt. Tamalpais and Samuel P. Taylor State Parks open.

A good bargain continues to be the Muir Woods Annual Pass...a yearly \$20 allows unlimited access for you and your group.

Make a New Year's Resolution: come for a visit to check out the season specials, hike the trails, enjoy the peace and quiet, and consider volunteering! We could especially use your help on Muir Woods Earth Day, Jan 28th

We look forward to seeing our neighbors often!
- Mia Monroe,
Muir Woods Site Supervisor

# Holiday Parties During December at MWPCA Clubhouse



Adults: Sunday, December 11th, 6:00 PM features an international buffet of the finger-friendly food. Please bring your favorite dish to share. No-host bar.

Kids: Saturday, December 17th, 3:00 PM features a

special visit from Santa Claus. It's quite a treat for the kids. Bring yours along if they haven't attended in the past. For questions, contact Jennifer Sheetz at: 383-3185.

#### Want to contribute to the Lookout?

Our Lookout Issues are filled with contributions from neighbors. If you'd like to share something, just contact me with a suggestion about your idea. Typically, articles run 500 words. Photographs are always welcome and enrich our reading. Send ideas to: lilasd@aol.com

#### **Important Phone Numbers**

Throckmorton Ridge Fire Station
Non-emergency 415/388-5414

Sheriff Department

Non-emergency 415/332-5422

Cell Phone call to 911 within Marin County Local dispatch 415/472-0911

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# Have you seen the new store "GROW" at Tam Junction?

A few weeks ago between raindrops GROW hosted a well-attended open house that I participated in. On hand were: a Mexican food truck, educational materials, live chickens and coops, dogs, live bees and bee hives, raised bed demonstration gardens, organic local veggies, fruits and oysters, and on-tap beer and wine.

Our neighbor owners Kelly Scott and Martha Pearl of Alpha Dog (dog boarding) and Will Hutchinson and Nate McCarthy of Proof Lab, created this sustainability-themed art and garden center located in the lot adjacent to their other businesses. (Nate lives on Panoramic.)

At the geographic crossroads of Tam Junction, the vision is to provide an educational, fun and environmentally friendly (green) resource center for locally grown organic food, gardening and permaculture, art and ceramics classes, a children's art studio, environmental education and outreach focused on sustainability.

I tabled with Dr. Pincetich from the local non-profit organization Turtle Island Restoration Network, www.tirn.net, working to save sea turtles internationally. During the BP Deepwater Horizon spill 2010 they helped protect and rescue four species of endangered turtles (Kemp's ridley, green, loggerhead and hawksbill sea turtles) and a fifth threatened specie, the leatherback.

At GROW there are permaculture classes, a vegetable garden art and ceramics and a children's art studio. I saw some of my neighbors there. On Fridays and Saturdays you can buy fresh, gorgeous produce from Marin Organic, and locally grown vegetable starts and native plants from Root for Peace, <a href="www.RootforPeace.org">www.RootforPeace.org</a>. Some sales proceeds will go to end hunger in East Africa. GROW is talking about having a film program, too.

The folks at GROW are working on solutions such as: growing and buying local food like veggies, fruits and chicken eggs, using solar and renewable energy, habitat restoration, and using permaculture and sustainability principles.

Supporting our local business can be a win, win for all of us. Helping to make this vision come about and spread these ideas and creativity is an exciting solution-based response to challenges.

These folks are beginning to be the change themselves, and we can be part of that change. Ride the West Marin Stagecoach down to GROW; it stops right there at Tam Junction.

- Laura Chariton

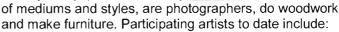
## 2012 Mountain Artists' Open Studio

A group of 10 artists met at the MWPCA Clubhouse November 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss an Open Studio event during 2012. Dates confirmed are:

June 1 Friday evening reception at the MWPCA
Clubhouse with each artist displaying 1-3 representative pieces

June 2 and 9 Open Studios

Participating artists sculpt, make jewelry, paint in a variety



Beverly Anderson
Bonnie Cohen
Rhonda Dubin
Ellie Graham
Novella Menconi
Linda Sawtelle
Alice Steinman

Tripp Carpenter
Etta Deikman
Roy Forest
Suki Hill
Woody Payne
Lila Sparks-Daniels
Victor Yalom

Artists are keeping in touch by email and will meet again in early February to refine plans, review design for posters and postcards, maps, and other supporting materials. They will plan to visit each other's studios during March to get acquainted with each other's different works.

There is plenty of time for other mountain artists to participate in the event. Contact Etta or Lila to get involved:

Etta: 383-2198 deikman@sbcglobal.net Lila: 819-0845 lilasd@aol.com

# Knitters: "Mt. Tam Purls" 4th Wednesday of the Month, 3:00—5:00 PM

There is now a group of about 5 regulars who get together and share projects and tips....bringing everything from knitting to mending to new quilts. Group members host the gatherings at their homes. To receive reminders contact Lila Daniels at lilasd@aol.com for meeting locations and to get on the email distribution list.

# Bus Service in the Neighborhood



Marin Transit would like to remind riders of the availability of The Stage coming through our neighborhood. Call them at 415/526-3239 or go to the following website for schedule up-

dates: http://www.marintransit.org/stage.html.

#### Information or Action?

On September 15, 2011, County Supervisor Steven Kinsey facilitated another public health discussion at the Muir Woods Park Community Association Clubhouse. His opening remarks reminded us that this discussion has been going on for many years. Three years ago, a group of residents formed a Sewer Committee and partnered with the County to pay for a preliminary study of what a sewer district would look like up here on the mountain. Early in 2011, that committee proposed that the community hold an election to form a proposed Sewer District. Some residents still felt this initiative was being taken too early. So this meeting was set up to provide more information and continue the discussion.

The first presenter was Rebecca Ng, Chief of Marin County Department of Environmental Health Services. She reminded us that the State of California is the legal authority in this area of governance—it makes the rules and delegates at least some of the supervision to the County's Department of Environmental Health Services.

The State of California is about to issue new regulations for septic systems: AB885. The rewrite was inspired by the State's intervention in Malibu, where there were serious public health problems due to poor septic system maintenance. AB885 is being commented on right now, and is expected to go into effect in 2013.

The County anticipates new septic system regulations that will raise the standards, be quite specific, and be somewhat cumbersome in its enforcement. Ms. Ng assured us, however, that the County would remain as reasonable and supportive of our needs as possible.

The second presenter was Deitrich Stroeh, the consulting engineer contracted by the Sewer Committee & County. First he pointed out that he has personally assessed more than 10% of the homes in this community, and has found all of them out of compliance with County requirements.

Then Stroeh reported on the survey concerning those who would like to "opt out" of participation in any Sewer District or Sewer Assessment District.

The Results:

Lots with housing units: 280

Opting Out: 87

Units remaining to vote on formation of Districts: 193 (Failure to respond was counted as "remaining to vote")

Though the committee believes the majority of those remaining to vote are in support of forming a sewer district, the alarm and discontent expressed by some of our residents causes the Sewer Committee to pause. Once again it asks, "Is there a more immediate and affordable way of dealing with our public health problem?"

Neighbor Gordon Robinson was our last presenter. He introduced himself as a "sewer agnostic" and part of a "loyal opposition" to the initiative taken by the Sewer Committee. He called for fence mending, and he made a plea for greater civility and diligence in the discussion of options. He announced a new organization called the Environmental Health Committee. Its intent is to be a central point of contact for information, education, and support in dealing with septic system problems. Its web site is info@MWPSforum.org.

As a member of the Sewer Committee, I was pleased with the quality of information and the attitude presented by our County officials. But I fear that the outcry for "more information" is simply delaying responsible action. We've been "thinking" about this for twenty years.

The cost of corrective action is the core issue. Soil conditions in our community often require advanced septic systems, the expense of which is far greater than the simple trench-and-leach-line systems on which many of us currently depend. Addressing the problem together through a sewer system would probably be the solution most affordable for everyone.

Ultimately, the cost of corrective action cannot be avoided. At the time of sale, the cost of a non-compliant septic system is deducted from the value of our property. If the government intervenes it will do so by immediately "borrowing" against the value of our property. A Sewer District is also a system by which we "borrow" against the combined value of all our properties. By contrast, the public health issue continues to diminish the value of the neighborhood as a whole.

Both sewers and septic systems are getting more technologically sophisticated. But the costs of either solution are not coming down. The sooner we act, the better.

- Bill Daniels

# Neighborhood Directory Finally in Process

Lila Daniels and Carol Stern are working away on the new directory. The 2005 Green Directory is seriously outdated. So, this will be the new replacement.

They will be emailing or mailing a quick confirmation form so you can let us know what you'd like us to publish...... and what you prefer to have withheld. Please respond quickly to help them put this together.

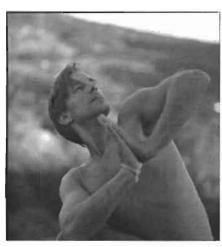
Since people rely more and more on emails, they're hoping to get even more email address listings before they go to press early next year.

Linda Sawtelle (a whiz at data bases and organizing information) is helping with the technical side of things so there will be a neighborhood database coming together that can be easily updated. Thank you, Linda!

For more information please contact: Lila at 819-0845; lilasd@aol.com Carol at 388-0824; huckleberrycas@yahoo.com

# Yoga on the Mountain

Sutat continues teaching our evening yoga classes beginning at 6:30 PM every Wednesday. Sutat's teaching style introduces beginners in a safe



and uncomplicated manner, while encouraging seasoned practitioners to move deeper into postures.

The focus on breathing brings benefits at all levels. Sutat brings over 25 years experience in the mind/body arts, including

over a decade spent in Asia studying with the masters.

Many people remember him from his years spent at Rancho La Puerta Spa, where he taught yoga as well as meditation and Tai Chi. Living on the mountain, he is thrilled to bring his teaching to the neighborhood.

Come join Sutat and others at 6:30 PM each Wednesday evening. A sign will be posted at Four Corners as a remindor.



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Keith says this is still a good time to consider refinancing your home. Give him a call to discuss possibilities at 383-0269. Thank you, Kathleen, for the quarterly real estate updates!





Kathleen Delehanty
Listing and selling properties on Mt. Tam.
Contact me...Let my 20+ years experience on The Mountain
work for you.
415/755-8300 or Kathleen4re@yahoo.com

ACTIVE					
2 Forest Way	3/2	\$ 775,000			
376 Edgewood	3/2	660,000			
192 Adams	1/1	879,000			
130 Sunrise Ave	5/4	1,165,000			
151 Bayview Dr.	4/3	1,895,000			
880 Edgewood	3/3	3,300,000			
SOLD					
628 Amaranth	3/3	925,000			
50 Washington Park	5/4	1,380,000			
LOTS / ACTIVE					
Adams	.218 acre	115,000			
360 Panoramic	.232 acre	230,000			
56 Mountain Lane	.161 acre	249,000			
Redwood	.689 acre	249,000			
LOTS/SOLD					
Amaranth Blvd .	1.45 acre 370,000				

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Lookout Alert: This is the 4th issue for 2011 and the last one that will be mailed to everyone. Those without emails will continue to receive the Lookout via the mail at no extra charge to make sure everyone is included. As a cost-cutting measure, we will email pdf files to those of you with email addresses. The email copies are in color, so they're especially vibrant, and you can increase the print size for easy reading. Lookouts will continue to be posted on our website: http://www.mounttam.org.

Those of you with email addresses available will shortly receive a form to indicate the accuracy of the current data and also to seek permission to use the information. Those without email addresses currently available will receive the form in the mail.

# THE LOOKOUT

Muir Woods Park Community Association 40 Ridge Avenue Mill Valley, CA 94941

Non-Profit Organization U.S. PostagePaid Mill Valley, CA **Permit # 149** 

# Return Service Requested

Harold Dittmer Jane Larrow 24 Brighton Blvd Mill Valley, CA 94941

Rates, rules, forms, calendar and all information about

what is included are on the website: http:// www.mounttam.org. Special member discounts.

2011—2012 MWPCA Board Officers		Community Calendar - see online for up			
President	Peter Hindley	phindley@nexant.com	www.mounttam.org		
VP	Keith Papulias	383-0269			
Treasurer	Carol Stern	huckleberrycas@yahoo.com			DECEMBER
Rec. Sec.	Nancy Klasky Gribler	nancy.gribler@yahoo.com	6:00 PM	11	Adult Holiday Cocktail Party
Corresp. Lynn Hindley	lynnhindley@sbcglobal.net	3:00 PM	17	Children's Holiday Party	
Sec.		388-7252	3:00 PM	28	Mt. Tam Purls
Director	Lila Daniels	lilasd@aol.com		- 3	JANUARY
Director	Faybeth Diamond	388-9255 fbdlive@comcast.net		W.	JANUARY
Director	Harold Dittmer	hdittmer@sbcglobal.net	7:00 PM	12	Board Meeting
Director	Susan Johnson	susancaj@comcast.net	3:00 PM	25	Mt. Tam Purls
Director	John Lovell	golfodulce@yahoo.com			
Director	Judy Sparks	888-8668			
	Committees				FEBRUARY
Clubhou	use Rentals	Lynn Hindley	7:00 PM	9	Board Meeting
	Emergency	Susan Johnson/Faybeth Diamond	3:00 PM	22	Mt. Tam Purls
Lookout Newsletter L		Lila Daniels			
Webma	Webmaster Diane Curtis				
Tech Consultant		Peter Spear: 383-1842		Clubhouse Available for Rent	

Peter Spear: 383-1842

Lynn Hindley

Jennifer Sheetz: 383-3185

Sewer Committee

Parenting